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CLAIMS

(1) A support structure for ink cartridge provided detachably in an ink jet printing apparatus, comprising:

a carriage for reciprocating in a main scanning direction, the carriage including a rear wall for supporting a rear surface of the ink cartridge, a base for supporting a bottom surface of the ink cartridge, and a first lateral wall for supporting a first lateral surface of the ink cartridge;

a front cover connected to the carriage openably and closably in a horizontal direction, the front cover pressing a front surface of the ink cartridge toward the rear surface and pressing a second lateral surface of the ink cartridge toward the first lateral surface thereof; and

an upper cover connected to the carriage openably and closably in a vertical direction, the upper cover pressing a top surface of the ink cartridge toward the bottom surface.

(2) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the front cover has a front pressure member for pressing the front surface of the ink cartridge toward the rear surface thereof.

(3) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the front cover has a lateral pressure member for pressing the second lateral surface of the ink cartridge toward the first lateral surface thereof.

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(4) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the upper cover has an upper pressure member for pressing the top surface of the ink cartridge toward the bottom surface thereof.

(5) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the front cover and the upper cover are connected to move in conjunction with each other, so that open and close operation of either one of the front cover and the upper cover involves open and close operation of the other one.

(6) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 5, wherein the front cover and the upper cover are connected to move in conjunction with each other through a bevel-gear mechanism.

(7) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 5, wherein the front cover and the upper cover are connected to move in conjunction with each other through a cam mechanism.

(8) A support structure for ink cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the upper cover includes a detecting member for detecting whether an ink cartridge as mounted is a proper one.